HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

CHAPTER 1: CRUELTY

YOUR BIG BROTHER IS DEFINITELY GOING TO SAVE YOU!

NEZUKO ...

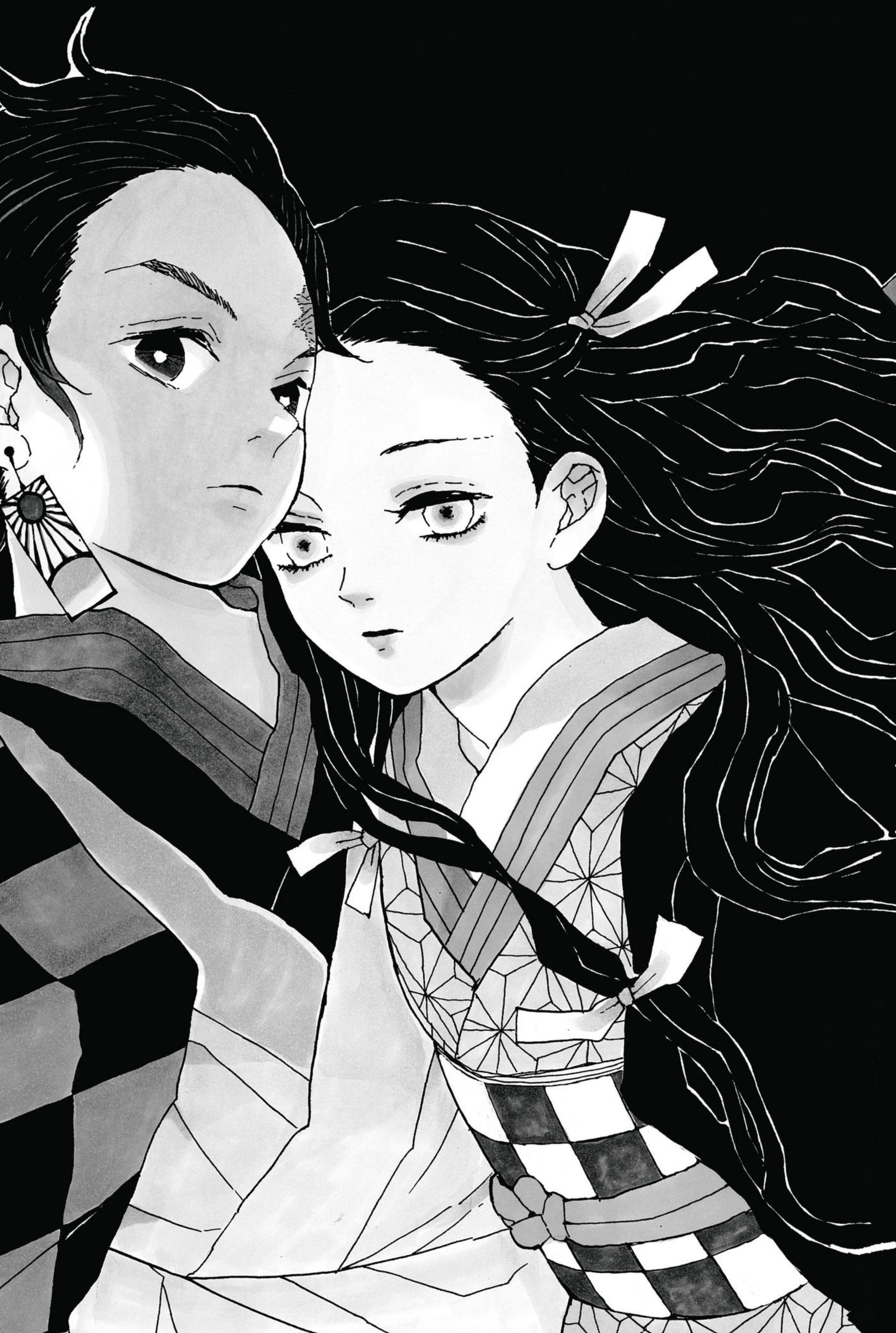
DON'T DIE.

DON'T DIE.

YOU CAN'T DIE.

I'M GONNA SAVE YOU.

DEMON
SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA



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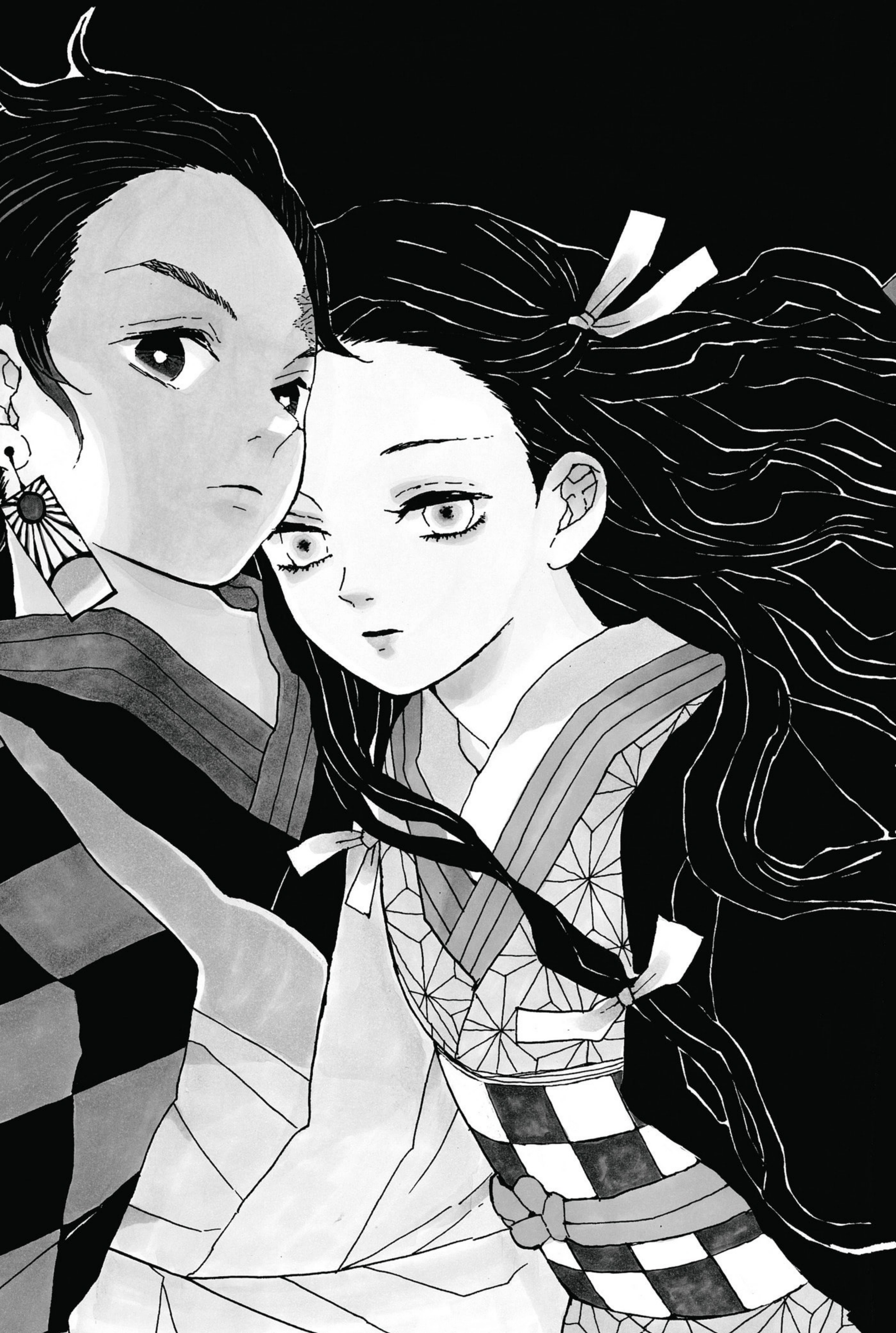

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TANJIRO!

IT'S SNOWING AND IT'S DANGER-OUS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.

YOUR FACE IS PITCH-BLACK.

COME HERE.

THANK YOU.

...EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE.

I WANT US TO HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR'S FEAST, SO I'LL GO SELL AS MUCH CHARCOAL AS I CAN...

CHAPTER 1: CRUELTY

BE CARE-FUL!

HURRY BACK, OKAY?

I WAS PUTTING ROKUTA TO SLEEP...

...BUT I HEARD ALL THE COMMO-TION.

NEZUKO ...

TANJIRO!

SEE YOU LATER!

...SO THEY'VE STARTED CLINGING TO YOU.

THEY'VE BEEN SO LONELY SINCE FATHER DIED...

TANJIRO!

IT'S SNOWING AND IT'S DANGER-OUS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.

YOUR FACE IS PITCH-BLACK.

COME HERE.

THANK YOU.

...EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE.

I WANT US TO HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR'S FEAST, SO I'LL GO SELL AS MUCH CHARCOAL AS I CAN...

WHAAAA?!

I WANNA GO TOO!

TANJIRO, ARE YOU GOING TO TOWN AGAIN TODAY?

...SO HE CAN'T PULL YOU WHEN YOU'RE TIRED.

HE ISN'T TAKING THE CART TODAY...

BUT MOM!

NO. YOU CAN'T WALK FAST LIKE TANJIRO.

NO.

I WILL, BUT...

...I WAS HOPING WE'D DO IT TOGETHER.

I wanna go with you!

TAKEO ...

I KNOW YOU CAN'T DO A LOT, BUT CUT A LITTLE WOOD TODAY. OKAY?

IT'S ALWAYS CHANG-ING.

BUT LIFE IS LIKE THE WEATHER ...

...AND THE SNOW WON'T ALWAYS KEEP FALLING.

IT WON'T ALWAYS BE EASY...

...THE SMELL OF BLOOD IN THE AIR.

WHEN HAPPI-NESS ENDS THERE'S ALWAYS...

OUR LIFE ISN'T EASY, BUT WE'RE HAPPY.

OH, TANJIRO!

I'VE GOT A GOOD NOSE FOR TROUBLE. I'LL BE FINE.

YOU CAN STAY HERE.

PLEASE. COME BACK.

BUT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE.

YOU DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO ANY *DEMONS*.

FOR AGES... ... MAN-EATING DEMONS HAVE ROAMED THESE WOODS AFTER DARK.

SO YOU SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND AT NIGHT.

EAT, THEN SLEEP. YOU CAN GET UP AND GO HOME EARLY TOMORROW.

THANKS FOR FIXING MY SHOJI DOOR THE OTHER DAY!

GIVE ME SOME CHARCOAL TOO!

HEY! SELL ME SOME CHAR-COAL!

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!

YOU CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ON A DAY LIKE TODAY? YOU WORK SO HARD!

HELP ME!

SMELL IT!

SHE SAYS I BROKE A DISH!

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!

AAAH! TANJIRO!

SNIFF

SNIFF SNIFF

YES...

...THEY CAN.

CAN'T THE DEMONS COME INSIDE HOUSES?

BUT...

BECAUSE *DEMON SLAYERS* CUT THEM DOWN.

HAVE FOR AGES...

...WHY DON'T THEY EAT EVERY-ONE?

...THEN ...

YAWN

YAWN

BUT...

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS DEMONS.

NEXT TIME, I'LL BRING MY LITTLE BROTHERS.

OLD MAN SABURO LIVES ALONE BECAUSE HE LOST HIS FAMILY. HE MUST BE LONELY.

BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...

...MY GRANDMOTHER SAID THE SAME THING BEFORE SHE DIED.

...THE SMELL OF BLOOD IN THE AIR.

WHEN HAPPI-NESS ENDS THERE'S ALWAYS...

HFF

HFF

NEZUKO
...

ROKUTA
...

TAKEO...

SHIGERU
...

MOTHER
...

HANAKO
...

WHAT HAP—

WHAT HAPPENED?!

AGH!

WHAT THE...?

MAYBE A DOCTOR CAN SAVE HER.

ONLY NEZUKO'S BODY WAS STILL WARM.

MAYBE A BEAR TOO HUNGRY TO HIBERNATE?

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? A BEAR?

KEEP GOING!

MOVE YOUR FEET— FASTER.

THE AIR'S SO COLD IT'S FREEZING MY LUNGS.

SO HARD TO BREATHE!

I HAVE TO SAVE YOU.

TWITCH

I WON'T LET YOU DIE.

IT'S STILL A LONG WAY TO TOWN.

YOUR BIG BROTHER WILL SAVE YOU!

GRRAA
AAAAH!
?!
SHWF
WHUMP
OH NO!
I'M SLIP—

WHMP

OMP

I THOUGHT OF WHAT OLD MAN SABURO SAID.

A DEMON!

WAS NEZUKO ...

...A MAN-EATING DEMON?

NEZUKO HAS BEEN HUMAN...

...SINCE THE DAY SHE WAS BORN.

NO, THAT WAS IM-POSSIBLE.

BUT IT ALSO MADE ME SLIP!

THE SNOW...

...SAVED ME.

SHWF

NEZUKO!

!!

...FALLEN OVER ROKUTA, LIKE SHE WAS PROTECT-ING HIM.

BUT NEZUKO COULDN'T HAVE DONE ALL THAT. I FOUND HER...

BUT THIS NEZUKO ...

...SMELLS OF BLOOD AND DEATH.

WHOA!

SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BLOOD ON HER MOUTH OR HANDS.

AND THERE'S YET...

SKRRR

SHFF

SKRK

...AN-OTHER SMELL...

KRK

...AND SHE'S GETTING STRON-GER!

KRK

...SHE'S GROWING BIGGER...

WHAT-EVER THE REASON ...

...HAPPENED TO MY WHOLE FAMILY.

WHILE I WAS SAFELY ASLEEP IN TOWN, SOMETHING HORRIBLE...

BUT SHE'S SO STRONG! I CAN'T PUSH HER AWAY!

NEZUKO!

KRK

I HAVE TO SAVE NEZUKO IF I CAN!

KRK

HOW THEY MUST HAVE SUFFERED.

...AND I WASN'T THERE TO HELP THEM.

BE STRONG!

YOU CAN DO IT!

DON'T TURN INTO A DEMON!

HOLD ON, NEZUKO!

FIGHT IT! FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE!

PL IP

PL IP

NEZUKO!

!!

GRAB

FWSH

SNAP

WHO...

FMP

WHO IS THAT?

*AKKIMESSATSU, DESTROYER OF DEMONS

A KATANA.††

WHY DO YOU PROTECT HER?

GR
AA
AR

S-
SISTER
...

SHE'S
MY...

...LITTLE
SISTER!

THAT
IS YOUR
LITTLE
SISTER?

GR
AA
AA
GH

SHATTER

DASH

...

GRAAT!

NEZUKO!

I CAN'T LOSE NEZUKO TOO!

STOP!

PLEASE, STOP.

PLEASE...

PLEASE DON'T KILL MY LITTLE SISTER!

PLEASE...

I'LL MAKE HER *HUMAN* AGAIN!

I'LL FIND A WAY TO *CURE* HER!

I *WON'T* LET HER HURT ANYONE!

I'LL FIND A WAY! I SWEAR! PLEASE DON'T KILL HER!

A HUMAN WHO BECOMES A DEMON CANNOT GO BACK.

SHE WON'T GET BETTER.

SHWNG

...SO...

I'LL ALSO FIND THE ONE THAT KILLED MY FAMILY!

I'LL DO ALL THAT, SO...

...SO...

NEVER LEAVE YOURSELF SO *DEFENSELESS* IN FRONT OF AN ENEMY!

STOP BOWING SO PITIFULLY!

IF THAT WORKED, YOUR FAMILY WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!

THAT'S EASY. DEMON BLOOD GOT IN HER WOUND, SO SHE'S TRANSFORMED INTO A DEMON.

GR AA R!

NOT NEZUKO!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAKING HER ACT LIKE THIS...

BUT...

THAT IS HOW MAN-EATING DEMONS MULTIPLY.

NO! I'M SURE SHE KNOWS WHO I AM!

A MOMENT AGO SHE ALMOST ATE *YOU!*

NEZUKO WOULD NEVER EAT ANYONE!

BEFORE ...

WHY DID YOU COVER YOUR SISTER?

DID YOU THINK THAT WOULD PROTECT HER?!

AND FOR THAT MATTER, I DON'T RESPECT YOU EITHER!

THAT'S REALITY!

THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO TAKE HER!

WHY DIDN'T YOU THROW YOUR HATCHET?

WHY DID YOU SHOW ME YOUR BACK?!

HFF

HFF

HFF

GRAAH!

I SHOULD HAVE SKEWERED YOU BOTH!

THUD

...CURE HIS LITTLE SISTER?

OR EVEN *FIND* HIS ENEMY?

HOW CAN A WEAKLING LIKE YOU, WHO BOWS DOWN WHEN IT'S TIME TO FIGHT, TO KILL OR BE KILLED... HOW CAN SUCH A MAN...

...YOU MUST FIGHT FOR IT!

IF YOU WANT SOME-THING...

DEMONS MIGHT KNOW HOW TO CURE YOUR LITTLE SISTER...

...NO DEMON WILL RESPECT YOUR WHINING AND BEGGING!

...BUT...

THE MEEK HAVE NO POWER AND NO OPTIONS!

THE STRONG WILL CRUSH THEM IN EVERY WAY!

AND THEY CERTAINLY CANNOT AVENGE YOUR FAMILY.

...CANNOT PROTECT YOUR SISTER OR FIND HER A CURE.

WEAKNESS AND EMPTY PROMISES ...

W...

SHINK

GRAH!

YOUR HEART IS CRUSHED.

YOUR FAMILY IS DEAD AND YOUR SISTER HAS BECOME A DEMON.

I KNOW YOUR PAIN, HOW YOU MUST WANT TO CRY OUT.

DON'T CRY.

DON'T DESPAIR.

THOSE THINGS WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

BUT THERE IS NO TURNING BACK TIME.

...YOUR FAMILY MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED.

IF I'D COME HALF A DAY SOONER ...

ANGER THAT BECOMES THE UNWAVERING FORCE THAT DRIVES YOUR LIMBS.

...THAT GIVES NO QUARTER.

STRONG, PURE ANGER...

FILL YOUR HEART WITH ANGER.

NOOOO!
GNCH
FWIP

AAAAH!

WHOK

WHAT A FOOL!

A SIMPLE, HEAD-ON ATTACK RELYING ON PURE EMOTION.

WHERE IS HIS HATCHET?

FWOIP
FWIP

HH
OK

THOK

JUST BEFORE PASSING BEHIND THE TREE, HE THREW A ROCK...

...AND WHILE HIDDEN BY THE TREE HE THREW HIS HATCHET.

...WAS TO STRIKE ME DOWN AFTER I KILLED HIM.

HE KNEW HE COULDN'T WIN AGAINST ME, SO HIS PLAN...

HE HID HIS HAND SO I WOULDN'T SEE HE WAS UNARMED.

GRAAR!

THIS KID...

WHOOK

BECAUSE THEY NEED THE ENERGY.

I'VE SEEN IT COUNT-LESS TIMES.

STARVING DEMONS WILL KILL AND EAT THEIR OWN PARENTS AND SIBLINGS.

...AND MUST WANT TO EAT HUMAN FLESH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...NOT TO MENTION THE STRENGTH IT TOOK TO TRANSFORM INTO A DEMON. SHE MUST BE DOUBLY STARVED RIGHT NOW...

THIS GIRL IS INJURED. IT COSTS HER STRENGTH ...

...TO HEAL THAT WOUND...

...AND FOCUS-ING HER ANGER ON ME.

BUT SHE'S PROTECT-ING HIM...

NEZUKO WOULD NEVER EAT ANYONE!

NOT NEZUKO!

HE WOULDN'T BE...

...THE FIRST TO SAY THAT AND THEN GET EATEN ANYWAY.

NO! I'M TOO LATE!

SKF

SHE'S ABOUT TO EAT HIM!

NEZUKO...

I'M SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE YOU, TANJIRO.

TAKE CARE OF NEZUKO.

SKFF

HFF

HFF

HFF

WHSH

HMMPH

YOU'RE AWAKE?

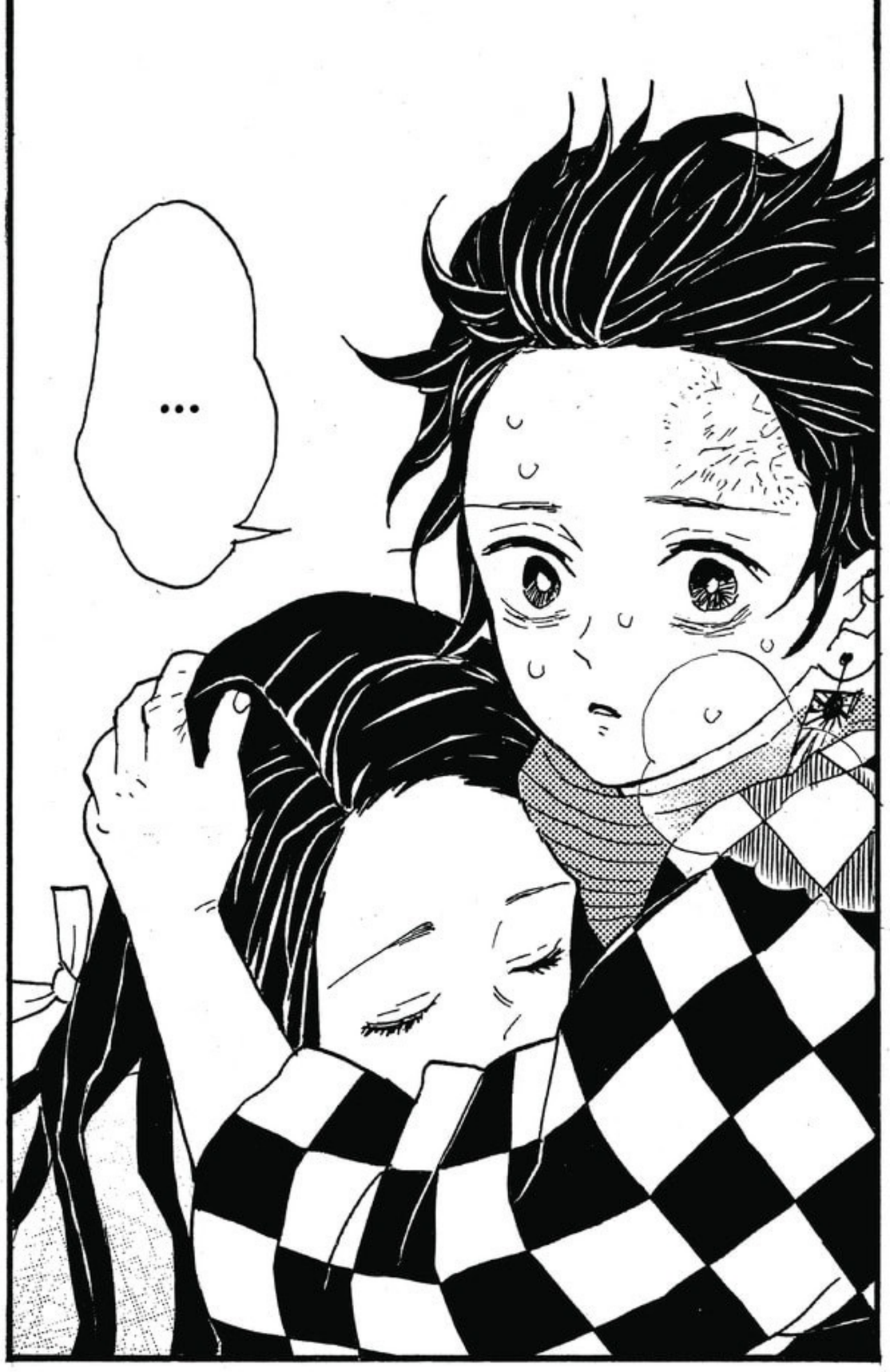
TELL HIM THAT *GIYU TOMIOKA* SENT YOU.

GO SEE AN OLD MAN NAMED *SAKONJI UROKODAKI* WHO LIVES AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT SAGIRI.

WHSH

...BUT DON'T LET HER INTO DIRECT SUN-LIGHT.

YOUR SISTER SHOULD BE FINE BECAUSE THE SUN ISN'T OUT TODAY...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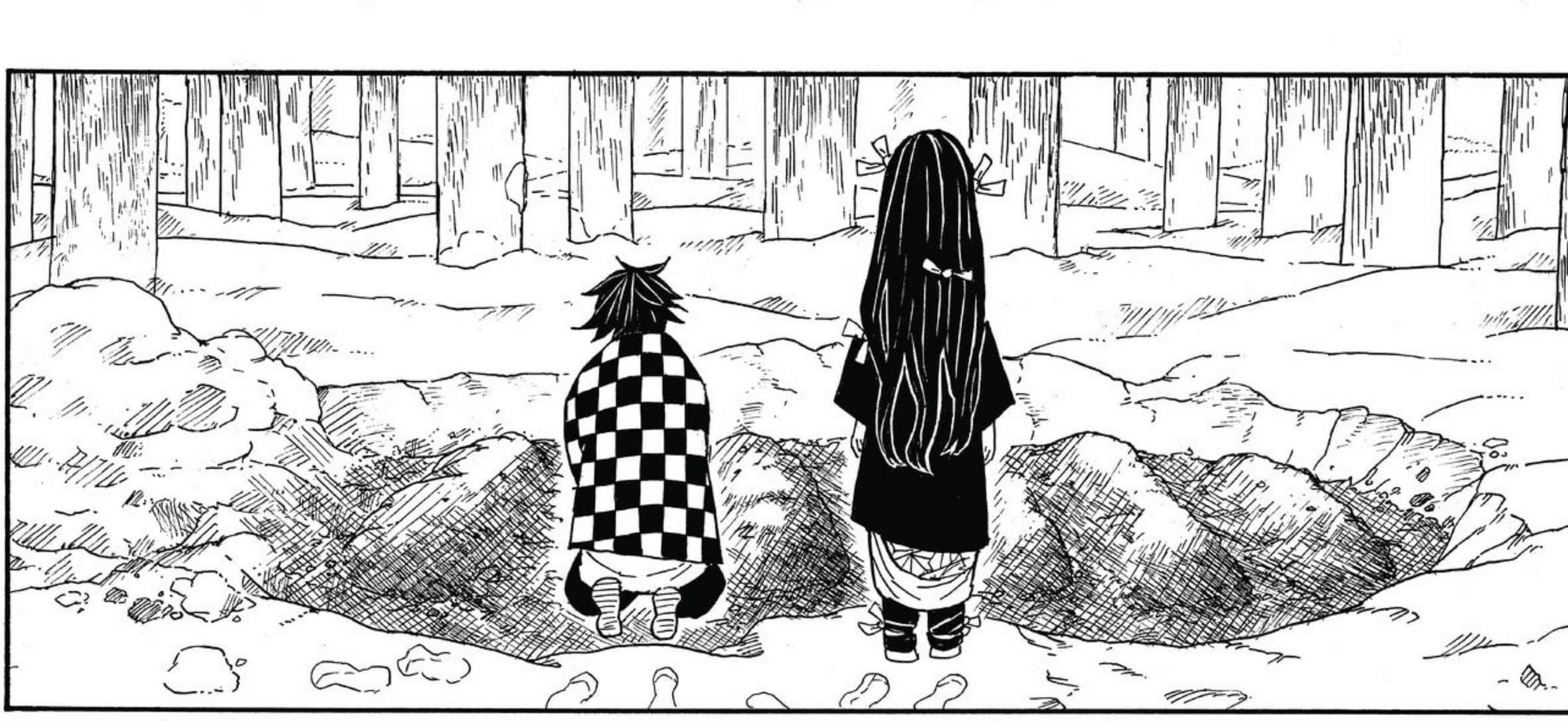

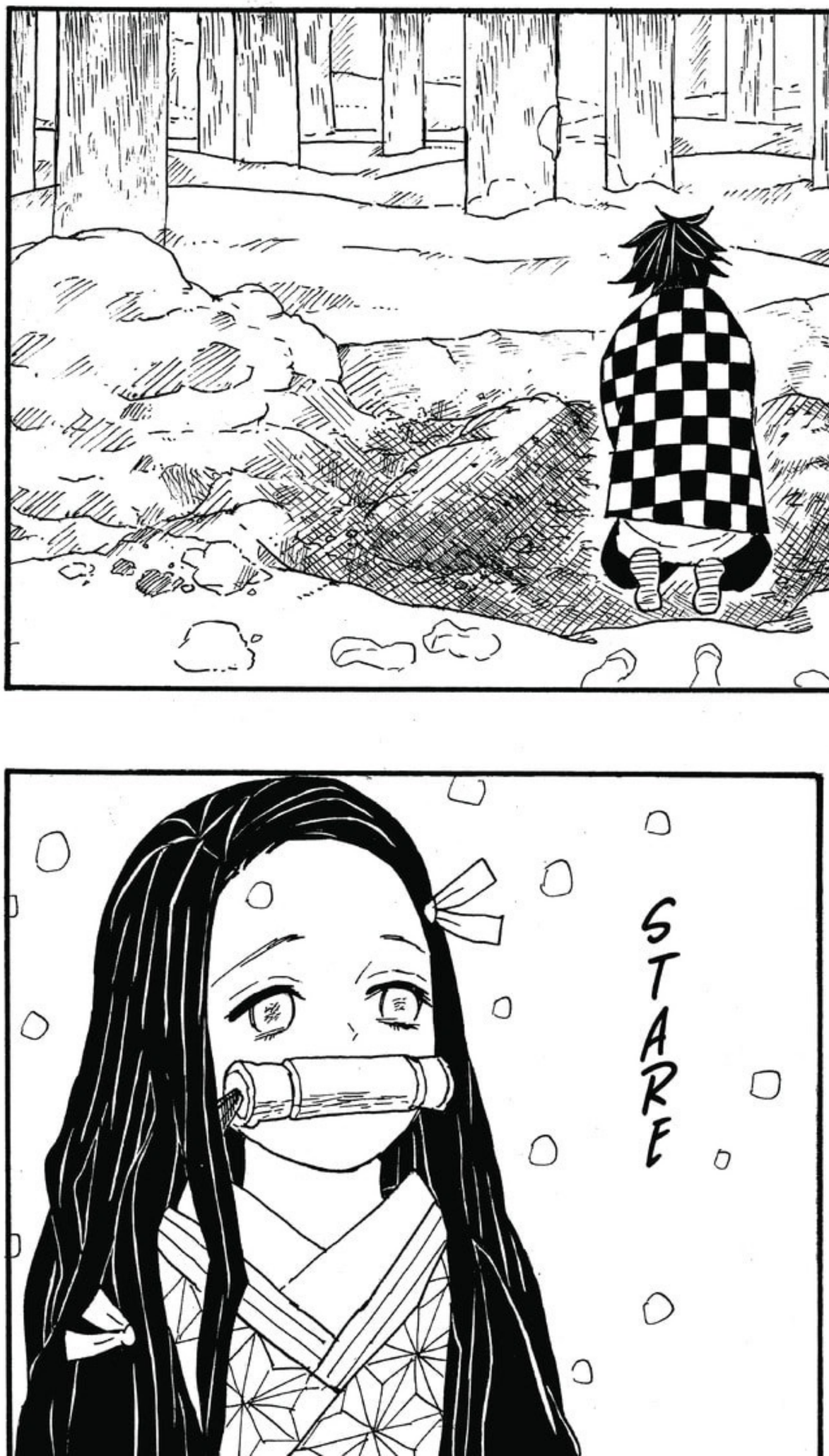
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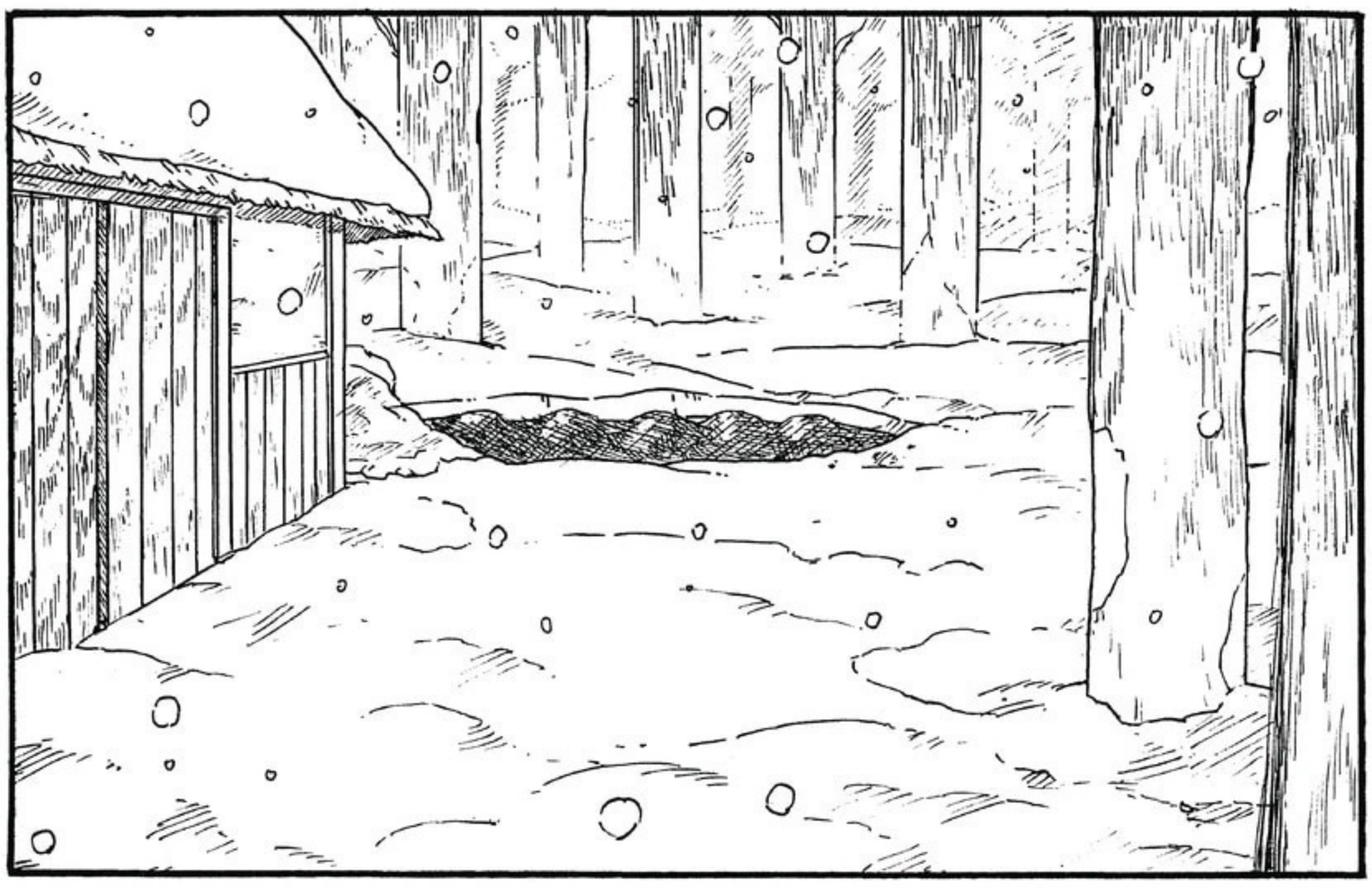

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CHAPTER 2: THE STRANGER